

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 161100Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7521

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF GOJ STATEMENTS ON

KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

SUMMARY: PRIMIN TANAKA, ON CAMPAIGN TOUR
SATURDAY, EXPRESSED GOJ HOPE OF HOLDING POSTPONED
JAPAN-ROK MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AT QTE APPROPRIATE
TIME UNQTE. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAI DO TOLD
PRESS MONDAY EVENING THAT HOLDING CONFERENCE BEFORE
RESOLUTION OF KIM CASE COULD LEAD TO QTE MISUNDERSTANDING
UNQTE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN KAKUEI TANAKA, SPEAKING ON LAST DAY OF
YAMAGATA PREFECTURE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN SATURDAY,
REITERATED GOJ POSITION THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE
SHOULD BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN MANNER WHICH
WOULD NOT HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS,
AND SAID THAT GOJ HOPES TO HOLD SEVENTH JAPAN-ROK
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AT QTE APPROPRIATE
TIME UNQTE. CONFERENCE, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR
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SEPTEMBER 7-8, WAS POSTPONED IN AFTERMATH OF KIM CASE.

IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE PRIMIN STRESSED THAT
CONFERENCE AND ABDUCTION ARE SEPARATE MATTERS.

2. IN DELAYED FOLLOWUP TO ABOVE, CHIEF CABINET
SECRETARY SUSUMU NIKAI DO TOLD PRESS IN TOKYO MONDAY
EVENING THAT GOJ POLICY OF SEEKING RESOLUTION
OF KIM CASE SATISFACTORY TO PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND ROK
REMAINS UNCHANGED. AT SAME TIME, NIKAI DO EXPRESSED DOUBT
ABOUT WISDOM OF HOLDING CONFERENCE BEFORE KIM CASE
RESOLVED, AND SAID THAT HOLDING CONFERENCE AT THIS TIME
WOULD CAUSE QTE MISUNDERSTANDING UNQTE.

3. PRESS ALSO QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES WHICH EXPLAINED
THAT NIKAI DO DID NOT CONTRADICT PRIMIN TANAKA STATEMENT
IN YAMAGATA, BUT ONLY SERVED WARNING THAT ROKG SHOULD
DISCLOSE FACTS RELATING TO KIM CASE BEFORE MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD. SAME INFORMED SOURCES ALSO
EXPLAINED THAT PRIMIN TANAKA WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR, IN
YAMAGATA, JAPAN'S HOPE OF HOLDING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
BEFORE TOO LONG.

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED OVER WEEKEND THAT FORMER PRIMIN
NOBUSUKU KISHI CALLED ON PRIMIN TANAKA, PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE FOR YAMAGATA, AND PROPOSED EARLY RESUMPTION
OF JAPAN-ROK MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. KISHI ALSO
REPORTED TO HAVE INFORMED PRIMIN TANAKA THAT
PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE EXPRESSED REGRET ABOUT KIM
INCIDENT TO HIM AND PROMISED SINCERE EFFORT TO RESOLVE
ISSUE DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN SEOUL.

5. COMMENT: NIKAI DO'S DELAYED AMPLIFICATION
PROBABLY DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT ROKG OBSERVERS, WHO
ARE AWARE OF KISHI CALL ON PRIMIN, DO NOT INTERPRET
TANAKA'S YAMAGATA STATEMENT MADE SHORTLY AFTERWARD
AS SIGNIFICANT SIGNAL OF CHANGE IN GOJ POSITION ON
KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. NIKAI DO EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR INGERSOLL
DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MONDAY THAT IT
WOULD BE QTE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE UNQTE TO HOLD
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE PRIOR TO SATISFACTORY
RESOLUTION OF KIM ABDUCTION CASE BUT THAT GOJ DID NOT
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WANT TWO MATTERS AUTOMATICALLY LINKED. END COMMENT.
INGERSOLL

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